

*31 May 2018*

## **World No Tobacco Day 2018**

Gathered at its annual meeting, the members of the European Heart Network (EHN) today celebrate the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). This year, WNTD focuses on the impact tobacco has on the cardiovascular health of people worldwide.

Tobacco use is an important risk factor for the development of coronary heart disease, stroke, and peripheral vascular disease. Despite the known harms of tobacco to heart health, and the availability of solutions to reduce related death and disease, knowledge that tobacco is one of the leading causes of cardiovascular disease is low among large sections of the public.

Tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure contribute to approximately 17% of all heart disease deaths. Tobacco use is the second leading cause of CVD, after high blood pressure. Tobacco cessation is therefore an important measure for primary and secondary prevention as well as a crucial component for cardiac and stroke rehabilitation.

EHN and its members welcome this year's focus on heart disease and stroke and will continue to work on raising awareness within the broader public of the impact tobacco use and exposure to second-hand smoke have on cardiovascular health.

We are also very proud to announce that our Director has been awarded the WHO World No Tobacco Day Award. EHN will continue to advocate for effective and comprehensive tobacco control policies throughout Europe.